

### **REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 1, 5 to 10, 14 and 15.

Claims 1, 5 to 10, 14 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Van Zoeren (U.S. 5,506,086).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The rejection indicates that since the radiation-opaque material of Van Zoeren et al. meets the present limitations for the ultraviolet absorber of the present invention, the relief printing original plate of Van Zoeren et al. and the relief printing original plate of the present invention are capable of functioning in the same manner.

However, in Van Zoeren et al., inorganic pigments such as carbon black and graphite, metals, alloys, and dyes are offered as suitable examples of the infrared-absorbing agent (please refer to column 5, lines 22 to 34). Therefore, the infrared-absorbing agent of Van Zoeren et al. is not capable of changing its ultraviolet absorptivity, in contrast to the ultraviolet absorber of the present claims.

Specifically, the invention of Van Zoeren et al. is indicated as Background Art on page 4, line 20 to page 5, line 12 of the present invention, and nothing is disclosed in Van Zoeren et al. regarding the ultraviolet absorptivity of the mask layer being deactivated by infrared radiation.

On the contrary, in the present invention, through the co-utilization of the ablation by infrared irradiation together with the deactivation of the ultraviolet absorbability, the ultraviolet transparency of the infrared irradiated area can be further improved compared to the ultraviolet transparency of the infrared irradiation, as well as enabling the formation of a mask image layer having high contrast without roughening the surface of the photosensitive resin layer therebeneath (please refer to page 9, line 18 to page 10, line 18 of the present specification).

Therefore, the relief printing original plate of Van Zoeren et al. and the relief printing original plate of the present claims do not function in the same manner.


For the foregoing reasons, it is apparent that Van Zoeren et al. neither discloses nor suggests the present claims.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Toshiya TAKAGI et al.

By:   
Matthew M. Jacob  
Registration No. 25,154  
Attorney for Applicants

MJ/aas  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
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